CONFIDENTIAL
INFORMATION AND CONSENT FOR HIV TESTING

HIV is a virus which infects the body's immune system, leading to the loss of the natural ability to fight disease. The virus can also infect cells of other body systems, causing mental and physical disorders. People who develop AIDS are those who have a positive HIV test and whose immune system is so severely damaged that they develop life-threatening illnesses. The virus infects the body and causes antibodies to form. The antibodies usually form within two to twelve weeks of exposure. It may take ten or more years for AIDS symptoms to develop.

A positive test result indicates that you have been infected with HIV. Some HIV tests measure antibodies, which are substances the body makes to fight the virus. Other HIV tests measure the presence of the virus in the bloodstream.

HIV is transmitted from infected persons to others during sex, sharing of injection drug equipment, piercing equipment, tattoo needles or branding, from infected mothers to unborn or newborn children and rarely through transfusion of blood or blood products. HIV has been found in blood, semen, vaginal secretions and breast milk. Anyone who has been infected with the virus can infect other people even though they may not look or feel ill. An infected person may remain in good health for months or years. Some symptoms of HIV may include tiredness, fever, loss of appetite and weight, diarrhea, night sweats and swollen lymph glands.

<u>A positive test result indicates that the person has been infected by the virus and can transmit it to others even if he or she is not having any disease symptoms. Once infected, the person carries the virus in his or her body for life.</u>

A positive test does not mean that the person has or will develop AIDS. It means only that they are infected with the virus that often leads to AIDS unless medical care is started.

The best way to avoid HIV is abstinence from sex and injection drug use. If you decide to have sex with someone whose HIV status you aren't sure about use latex or polyurethane condoms every time you have sex and ALWAYS use safer sex practices. The more partners you have the more you risk being infected with HIV. Do not share needles or syringes (including piercing or tattoo) or equipment.

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For Your Information

The following Idaho Code or laws pertain to HIV, Hepatitis B and sexually-transmitted disease or infection:

20-209
32-412A
39-145
39-601 through 39-610
39-3801
39-4301-4306

Federal Code:

Ryan White Care Re-authorization Act Public Law 104-146, Section 8(a)

A negative test may mean an individual has not been exposed or that there has not been enough time from exposure for HIV antibodies to develop. The reliability of the test is not 100 percent, but extremely high. Your health care worker can explain further if you have questions.

Those at greater risk of exposure to HIV/AIDS are: men who have sex with men; injectable drug users; individuals who have shared piercing or tattooing equipment; people living with hemophilia; persons who have had a transfusion with blood or blood products before 1990; and the sex partners of those listed above. Children born of women who are HIV positive should also be counseled and tested.

If you are concerned about, or are unaware of, your HIV status, you should always practice safer sexual behaviors and activities such as: limiting your number of sex partners, using a latex or polyurethane condom, and being careful not to exchange body fluids and secretions during oral, vaginal or anal sex.
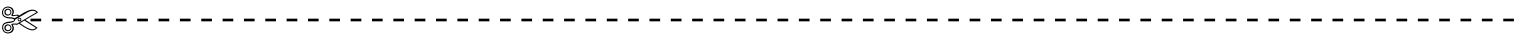
If you are uncertain of your HIV status it is important that you do not donate or sell blood/plasma, semen, ova, organs, or other body parts. If you have questions about donating blood or plasma, contact your local hospital, blood bank, or plasma center.

As with other reportable communicable diseases, positive test results (by name) must be confidentially reported to the Bureau of Clinical and Preventative Services, located in Idaho's Division of Health. Any information obtained as a result of this testing will remain confidential. Confidential disease reports containing patient identification shall only be used by health officials who work with infected people to prevent further spread of the disease. It is against the law for any person to willfully or maliciously disclose the content of any confidential public health record to any third party, without written authorization from the patient except as specified in Idaho law:

> Persons providing emergency medical service who may have been significantly exposed to a person's blood or other bodily fluids during an emergency may petition the Division of Health for confidential information about that person's HIV or Hepatitis B status. Every effort will be made to protect the privacy of any person who has been reported to the Division of Health with a communicable disease.

> Further privacy protections are provided by the Office for Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Persons with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) or related conditions, who feel they have been discriminated against on the basis of a handicap, may file a complaint with them by calling 800-362-1710

Also remember, it is a crime to knowingly expose another person to a sexually transmitted disease or infection without their informed consent. To do so may result in prosecution, court-ordered subpoena of medical records, and possibly imprisonment.
(Idaho Code 39-607 & 39-608)

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RETAIN THIS PORTION

I have read the information on this consent form about HIV and AIDS. I have had an opportunity to ask questions. I agree to having the HIV test done. I understand the last four paragraphs pertain to Idaho law, and how I could be impacted.

INFORMATION ON PERSON TO RECEIVE HIV TESTING
(please print):

Last Name	First Name	MI	Birthdate	Age
Address				
City	County		State	Zip
Phone (home)	Phone (work)	Test ID Number		
Signature of Patient		Date		
Signature of legal guardian or parent if necessary		Date		
Signature of Witness		Date		